Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original) A method for providing search results, comprising:

receiving a search query;

retrieving one or more objects in response to the search query;

determining whether the search query corresponds to at least one query theme of a group of query themes;

ranking the one or more objects based on a result of the determination; and

providing the ranked one or more objects.

Claim 2 (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the objects include web pages.

Claim 3 (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether any of the one or more objects relates to a list of favored and non-favored sources.

Claim 4 (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the ranking includes:

determining a score for those objects that are unrelated to the list of favored and non-favored sources using a first group of parameters,

determining a score for those objects that relate to the list of favored or non-favored sources using the first group of parameters and an editorial opinion parameter, and

ranking the objects based on the determined scores.

Claim 5 (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the editorial opinion parameter causes the rank of those objects corresponding to favored sources to be increased and a rank of those objects corresponding to non-favored sources to be decreased.

Claim 6 (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining includes:

determining whether the search query corresponds to a query rule associated with each query theme.

Claim 7 (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein each query theme is classified into a first set of topics, and

wherein the determining includes:

classifying the search query into a second set of topics, and

determining that the search query corresponds to a query theme when the second set of topics relates to the first set of topics associated with that query theme.

Claim 8 (Original) A system that provides search results, comprising:

means for receiving a search query that includes at least one search term;

means for retrieving one or more objects based on the at least one search term;

means for determining whether the search query corresponds to at least one of a plurality of query themes;

means for ranking the one or more objects based on whether the search query corresponds to at least one of the plurality of query themes; and

means for providing the ranked one or more objects.

Claim 9 (Original) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling at least one processor to perform a method that provides search results, the method comprising:

receiving a search query that includes at least one search term;

obtaining one or more objects based on the at least one search term;

determining whether the search query corresponds to at least one of a plurality of query themes;

determining a score for each of the one or more objects based on whether the search query corresponds to at least one of the plurality of query themes; and

providing a ranked list containing the one or more objects based on the determined score.

Claim 10 (Original) A server comprising:

a memory configured to store instructions and a group of query themes; and

a processor configured to execute the instructions to obtain a search query that includes at least one search term, retrieve one or more objects based on the at least one search term, determine whether the search query corresponds to at least one of the group of query themes, rank the one or more objects based on whether the search query corresponds to at least one of the group of query themes, and provide the ranked one or more objects.

Claim 11 (Original) A method for determining an editorial opinion parameter for use in ranking search results, comprising:

developing one or more query themes;

identifying, for each query theme, a first set of objects as favored objects;

identifying, for each query theme, a second set of objects as non-favored objects; and

determining an editorial opinion parameter for each of the objects in the first and second sets.

Claim 12 (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

determining, for each query theme, one or more rules for determining whether a search query satisfies the respective query theme.

Claim 13 (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

determining, for each query theme, one or more topics for determining whether a search query satisfies the respective query theme.

Claim 14 (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the one or more topics are selected from at least one hierarchical directory.

Claim 15 (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the first and second sets of objects are sets of web sites.

Claim 16 (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the identifying a first set of objects includes:

identifying the first set of objects using host names.

Claim 17 (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the identifying a first set of objects includes:

identifying the first set of objects using one or more Uniform Resource Locator (URL) prefixes.

Claim 18 (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the identifying a first set of objects includes:

classifying each query theme into a set of topics from a hierarchical directory, and

identifying host names listed under the set of topics as being in the first set of objects for that query theme.

Claim 19 (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the editorial opinion parameter causes a rank of an object to be increased or decreased based on whether the object is in the first or second set.

Claim 20 (Original) A computer-readable medium containing one or more instructions for controlling at least one processor to perform a method for determining an editorial opinion parameter for use in ranking search results, the method comprising:

identifying, for each of a group of search query themes, a first set of objects as favored objects;

identifying, for each of the group of search query themes, a second set of objects as non-favored objects; and

determining an editorial opinion parameter for each of the objects in the first and second sets of objects.

Claim 21 (Original) A computer-readable medium containing a data structure comprising:

a query theme field that stores at least one query theme;

a favored and non-favored sources field that stores information identifying favored and non-favored web sites for each query theme in the query theme field; and

an editorial parameter field that stores an editorial parameter for each favored and non-favored web site identified in the favored and non-favored sources field.

Claim 22 (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 21 wherein the at least one query theme includes at least one of a query theme rule and a set of topics from one or more hierarchical directories.

Claim 23 (New) A server comprising:

a memory configured to store a plurality of query themes, information identifying, for each of the plurality of query themes, at least one favored or non-favored item associated with the query theme, and an editorial parameter associated with each favored and non-favored item; and

a processor configured to:

receive a search query comprising one or more terms,

retrieve items using the one or more terms,

determine a score for each of the retrieved items,

identify one of the plurality of query themes as matching the search query,

determine, for each of the retrieved items, whether the retrieved item is associated with one of the favored or non-favored items associated with the one query theme, and

adjust, for each of the retrieved items, the score of the retrieved item when the retrieved item is determined to be associated with a favored or non-favored item.